Guidelines for diversion of Forest Land

3517. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA :
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued any guideliness for processing of proposals for diversion of forests land into non-forests purposes and for expeditious clearance of development projects that require less land and are directly relevant to the daily needs of the rural people and tribals ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the total area of forest land converted into non-forest land during the last one year in the country ;

(d) whether such a step of Government would not adversely affected in the environment ; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to delegate further powers to the Regional Chief Conservators of Forests of this Ministry for granting clearance to projects involving diversion of forest land upto 5 hectares and to make certain changes in the guidelines for expeditious examination of proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) During the Calandar year 1991, 625.21 hectares of forest land has been diverted for non-forest purposes in the country under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(d) No, Sir. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has not been diluted.

(e) Does not arise.

Sariska Wildlife Sancturay, Rajasthan

3518. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in accordance with the interlocutory order of the Supreme Court, mining activity in Rajasthan's Sariska Sanctuary was banned with effect from 31st December, 1991 till the demarcation of the protected areas as it has been, causing environmental deterioration in and around Sariska Tiger Reserve, seriously affecting its population ;

(b) if so, whether mining in the area has been stopped ; and

(c) if not, what steps have been taken by Government to check the unabated mining in Sariska Wild Life Sanctuary ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) (i) Government of India, after assessing the considerable adverse environmental impact that has been caused to certain areas of the Aravalli Range on account of inappropriate developmental processes and operations including mining, have issued a preliminary notification under the Environ-